



SUFFOLK NANSEMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 16, Issue 2

May 2007

CELEBRATING HISTORY



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF HAMPTON ROADS AND THE JAMESTOWN EXPOSITION.

From the 1907 Exposition booklet

As we prepare this newsletter to go to press, the Jamestown 2007 celebration is going full swing. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is visiting Virginia, the former British colony and the first successful attempt at colonization by the British in the New World. In a few days a new Jamestown commemorative stamp will be issued just as Jamestown stamps were issued for the celebration a century ago.

We take this opportunity to look at the ways we've celebrated history and recognized historic events in the past.

Jamestown Celebrations Past

1807 – A five-day event was hosted by several Tidewater cities and communities at the Jamestown site. A number of Revolutionary War veterans attended.

1857 – Another event at the Jamestown site included a flotilla, a military parade and a speech by President John Tyler.

The Jamestown Ter-Centennial Exposition 1907

This must have been an amazing and elaborate site built at the mouth of the James River at Hampton Roads, the watery highway taken by the first settlers who went to Jamestown.

For the 300th birthday an assortment of grand buildings was erected, all illuminated by electricity.

- An auditorium
- Food Products building
- Marine Exhibits building
- Palace of Liberal Arts
- The States' Exhibit Palace
- Palaces of Mines and Metallurgy
- Government Building West – Army and Navy Exhibit
- Government Building East – Treasury, Post Office and Exterior Department
- Fisheries Building
- 15 State Buildings

There was, as part of the celebration, the greatest gathering of war ships in the history of the world.

Most of the Exposition guests traveled to Norfolk on the Tidewater Railroad which added numerous passenger cars for the months of the celebration. The Tidewater Railroad, which went through Suffolk, later became the Virginian Railroad. (The Seaboard Station on Main Street served as the Tidewater/Virginian passenger station.)

Today some of the beautiful State Buildings still stand on Admirals Row at Naval Station Norfolk where they provide housing for the Navy brass. Others have other uses or were moved or destroyed.



West Virginia House



North Carolina House



Louisiana House



Virginia House



Missouri House

The Suffolk Festival -1958

Celebrating three hundred and fifty years of English Settlement

While the rest of Virginia celebrated in 1957, Suffolk's celebration was in 1958, perhaps to celebrate 350 years since the first Englishmen had come up the Nansemond River. This weeklong celebration covered all of our history. Each night of the week a pageant, Constant Cavalcade, was presented. There was a large parade. Men were encouraged to become Brothers of the Brush and grow beards and handlebar mustaches. Ladies wore long calico dresses and bonnets.

A festival booklet was full of ads for local businesses interspersed with local history stories. Proceeds from the festival were used

Believed to be chorus from 1958 Constant Cavalcade

to fund the production of a book of local history compiled by Ann H. Burton which was published, finally, in 1970.

A time capsule was buried in the sidewalk in the 200 block of North Main Street. Can you find it? *See page 9 for the location if you don't know.*



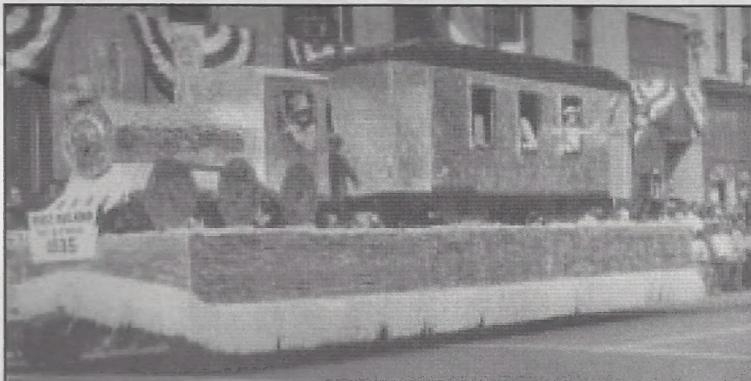
Can anyone name this Brother of the Brush?



Our Civil War history was remembered on this float.



The Holland float celebrated the birth of the Ruritan club there.



The first train through Suffolk (actually in 1834) was celebrated on this float, using what appeared to be a massive amount of aluminum foil.



The World War I float required the "statue" to stand still the entire length of the parade.



This float celebrated the pioneers that went forth from Nansemond County.



Native Chuckatuckians were celebrated in the Chuckatuck Ruritan float.



The Bicentennial chorus performs at Peanut Park.

Our Nation's 200th Birthday 1975-1981

Having lived through the Bicentennial it is still hard for this writer, a lover of history, to remember all that took place as part of the celebration. The event entered all facets of our lives.

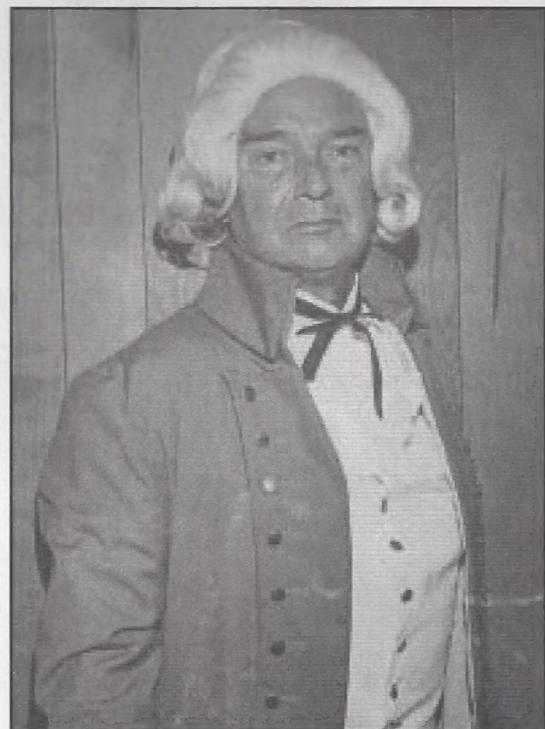
The Bicentennial Commission was made up of leading citizens from all of Suffolk and old Nansemond County. Each Commission member had an 18th century costume made. The men wore powdered wigs on parade day and on the Fourth of July. There were parades of boats on the Nansemond River sponsored by the Nansemond River Power Squadron in 1975 and 1976 on or near Flag Day. Each of those years the Power Squadron published a history booklet. Communities began celebrating their own histories. Crittenden and Eclipse started their big Fourth of July celebration and raft race. This continues to be a popular event.

Churches all took part in the celebration but perhaps the most unforgettable was the event at Suffolk Christian Church which, incidentally, didn't exist until 1860. Every member of their 45-50-voice choir, the minister and the director of Christian Education had elaborate eighteenth century costumes made. A week or so before Christmas the church was decorated in the Williamsburg style. The church was lit by candles on the night of the main performance and a sort of festival of lessons and carols – old carols – took place. It was standing room only. The popular event was repeated for at least two more years. At least once the choir procession was led by a gentleman in 18th century garb holding high a platter with a boar's head – apple in mouth – while the choir sang the carol.

One of the most lasting results in Suffolk was the start of the Riddick's Folly renovation/reuse project the idea for which was born in the Bicentennial. It would take at least a decade to gain firm footing but the plan for reuse of the beautiful old city-owned house was born. It stands today as a great symbol of the history-loving spirit of the Bicentennial.

There was a massive parade all through town that included many, many units. Of course, there was a fife and drum corps. There was a pageant at Peanut Park with patriotic music by an all-city chorus. Merchants in downtown Suffolk competed in an historic window display contest. American flags flew everywhere. While all things 18th century were the rage, locally we turned our eyes to Williamsburg more than ever.

On July Fourth a ceremony was held outside City Hall and the Declaration of Independence was read.



Edwin C. Ferguson in the costume he wore as a member of the Bicentennial Commission.



Many objects d'art were produced all over the country to honor our French friend.



Esther and Hugh Holland are shown at the SNHS Lafayette party in 1996. Melissa Walker, harpist, plays in the background.



These boats shown here on the Chuckatuck Creek were used in 2005 newsletter. Johnny Adams and Sidney Hazelwood first used the vessels to take tourists to the 1907 Jamestown Exposition.

The Visit of Lafayette 1824-25

As our country prepared to celebrate fifty years of independence, Congress decided to invite Lafayette, the great French hero of the American Revolution, to come back. Lafayette's circumstances had changed since the 1770's. He had financed his own troops in the American Revolution and then his fortunes were further reduced by the French Revolution.

Lafayette was welcomed in America with open arms. He was showered with gifts and feted in city after city. Babies were named for him (my favorite name was that of Mrs. Mills Riddick's son – Washington Lafayette Riddick). Towns, streets, colleges were named for Lafayette or his French home, La Grange.

In Suffolk, citizens learned that he would be coming just a day before his arrival in February of 1825. A banquet was prepared by Francis Holladay at his inn across the street from the Courthouse where the meal would be served. The Castle



Mary Hart and Austin Darden share a laugh at the 1990 party.

Inn (which was on the site now occupied by Young Properties at 444 North Main Street) was readied as housewives sent their best feather beds, chairs, tea tables, etc. to make the place worthy of the great man. Thirteen toasts were drunk at the banquet. The next day Lafayette shook the hand of every citizen who wanted to meet him. Then he left, stopping at Somerton for a meal and Murfreesboro, NC, for the night on his way to Halifax, NC.

An old letter that this reporter read once mentioned a portrait of the famous man done on that visit (or started then completed from memory) that hung in the Nansemond County Courthouse or Clerk's Office through the rest of the 19th century. The inquiry then as now was – What happened to it?

The copper luster pitcher shown above featuring an image of Lafayette crowned with a laurel wreath belongs to one of the Suffolk families that named a child for Lafayette in the 1820's. The name is still used in the family today.

SNHS has commemorated Lafayette's visit with parties on two occasions. Shouldn't an occasion so grand and exciting be remembered?

The Confederate Monument Dedication

A booklet shown on this page about the unveiling of the Confederate monument was printed in 1890, perhaps just two or three months after the unveiling.

This book, as readers can easily see, was given to or autographed for Marmaduke Jones, a Suffolk clothier, by Tom Smith who gave the monument. (Readers will recall that Tom Smith was the son of innkeeper Washington Smith.)

On the great day a dinner prepared by local ladies was held at the town hall for the military companies and veterans who came for the event. The Governor – “the gallant and beloved” Fitzhugh Lee – arrived late but he and other dignitaries dined with Col. Tom Smith at his home on Franklin Street. After dinner, the men adjourned to the front porch of the Smith house which served as the reviewing stand for the parade.

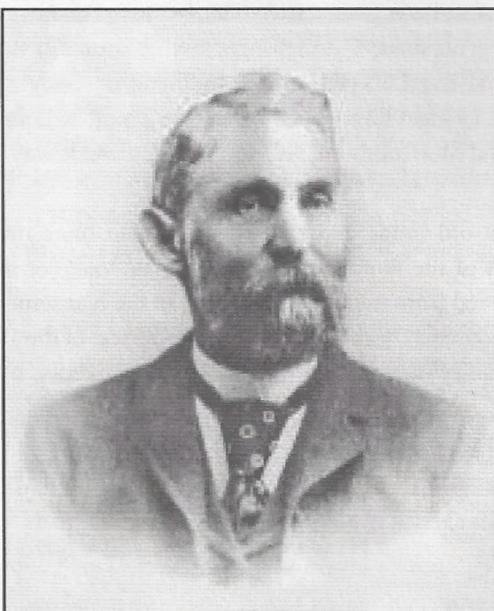
After the review, the parade reformed as follows moving from Washington Street to Wellons Street to Main Street to Cedar Hill:

- Governor Lee and Thos. W. Smith, mounted
- 3 carriages carrying Confederate officers. General Laurence Baker and Thomas R. Borland (U.S. District Attorney)* were in the third carriage
- The Naval post band
- Military companies from Norfolk, Portsmouth, and Hampton
- Cadets of Suffolk Military Academy
- Norfolk Light Artillery Blues
- Drum corps of the Pickett-Buchanan Camp
- Pickett-Buchanan Camp Confederate veterans – Norfolk
- Stonewall Camp, Confederate veterans - Portsmouth
- Confederate veterans of Suffolk and the surrounding area led by Capt. George T. Parker** and Lt. B.F. Cutchin – 300 men

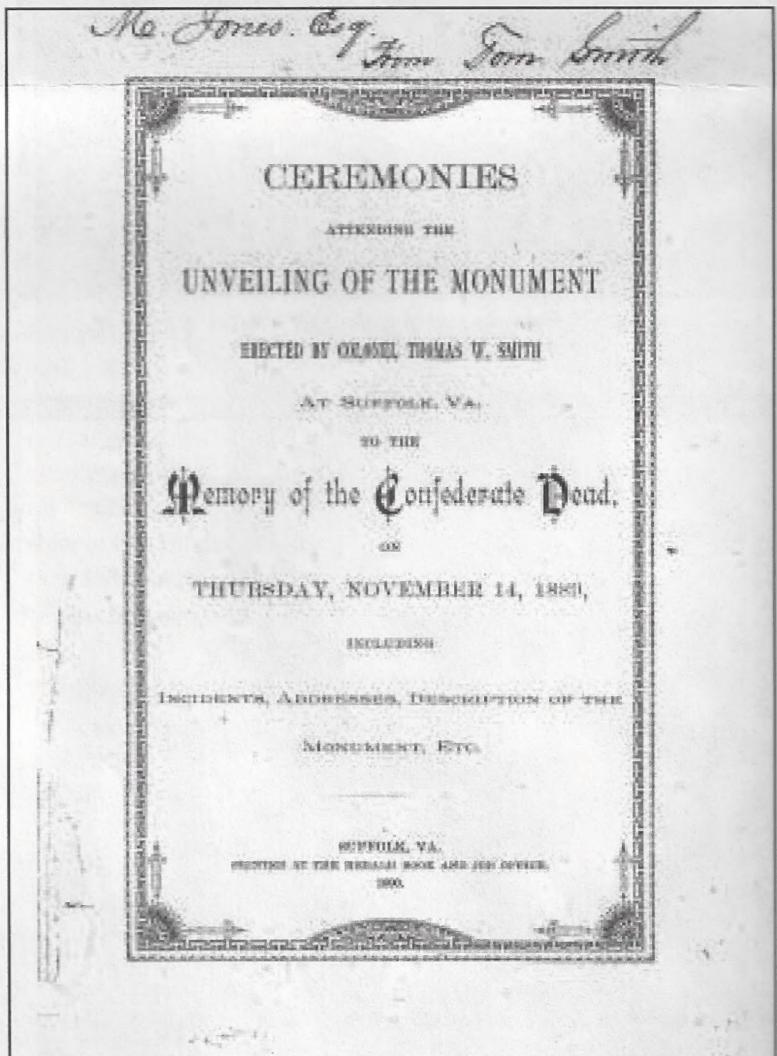
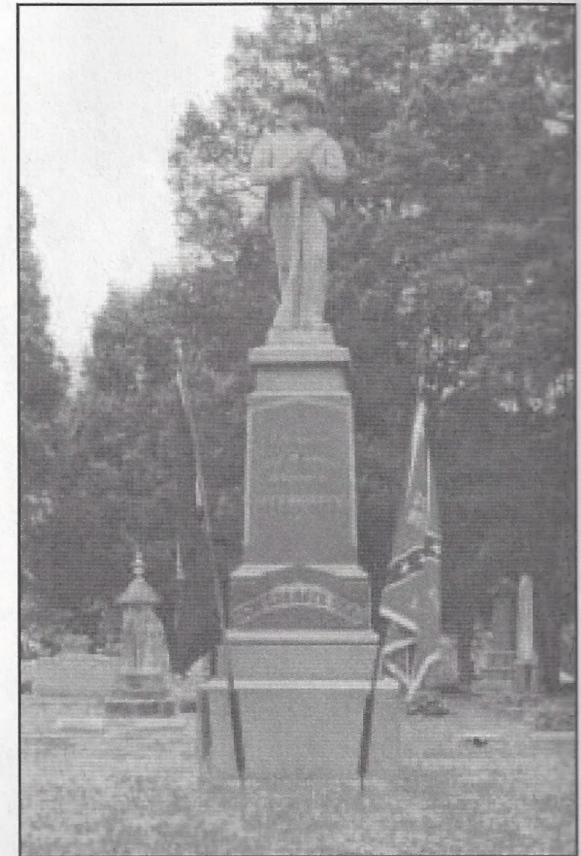
Numerous speeches were given at the monument site by the dignitaries. The crowd heard a few words from Governor Lee and a speech by Col. Tom Smith who was later buried in Cedar Hill on the lot beside the monument.

*See Borland article this issue.

**See our last newsletter.



Col. Thomas Washington Smith is buried on the lot beside the monument that he gave. Tom Smith photo and monument photo thanks to the Tom Smith Camp, S.C.V.





*City of Suffolk
and Nansemond County*

**Welcome Home
to our Heroes**

July 4th, 1919

COMMITTEE
J. H. WEST, Chairman
Reception: J. E. West, M. E. Stedding, J. W. Hunter, H. L. Barnes, H. C. Conroy, Jr., J. M. Durden, Charles F. Taylor, H. W. Joyce, H. T. Bedford, G. H. Denton, Paul E. Blodard, T. G. Knight, W. J. Holland, T. J. Shandor and E. E. Wagner.
Parade: J. C. Collier, Jr., Chief Marshal. His aides will be appointed by him.
Dinner: J. M. Durden, J. W. Hunter, H. W. Joyce, E. T. Holland, and George E. Denton.
Guest: M. E. Stedding.
Speaker: J. H. West.
Marching: H. H. Rogers.
Decorations: J. W. Hunter, E. M. C. Quigley, C. L. Lewis, E. E. Wagner.
Flowers: Charles F. Taylor, R. L. Brown, Jr., W. T. Holland, P. E. Blodard, T. J. Shandor and T. G. Knight.

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Red Cross
Mrs. J. H. Lee
Mrs. E. H. Parker, Mrs. E. M. Quigley
Music Corps
Miss Ethel Sharp
Dinner
Mr. J. M. Durden
Mrs. A. E. Myrick
Mrs. J. M. Durden, Mrs. J. W. Durden, Mrs. W. G. Holland, Mrs. W. T. Post, Mrs. J. W. Wenzel, Mrs. E. E. Blodard, Mrs. J. C. West, Mrs. H. L. Conroy, Mrs. G. L. Lewis, Mrs. F. A. Haliday, Mrs. W. S. Barnes, Mrs. Rosalie Wright.



Victory Parade

COMPANY F - 29th DIVISION

July 4, 1919

Above: Parade on the Square—the 100 block of West Washington Street.

Left: A brochure from the Welcome Home Celebration

A parade, a dinner with speeches, and a baseball game celebrated the return of World War I veterans.

The World War I Monument Dedication - 1931

It seems that all history-making or history-remembering occasions were celebrated with parades and large gatherings. The World War I monument now stands at the Mahan Street entrance to Cedar Hill Cemetery. When it was first unveiled, it was in the front of the Nansemond County Court House in the middle of Main Street. Talk about pride of place!

There was a parade led by Captain Otis Smith and his aides, Melvin Lovelace and Charles D. Andrews. There were a color guard, a platoon of police, Confederate veterans, Spanish-American War veterans, Daughters of the American Revolution, Daughters of the Confederacy, the Red Cross, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Gold Star Mothers - white and colored - and, finally, American Legion Posts from Suffolk, Newport News, Portsmouth, and Franklin. The music was provided by the Admirals' Band from the U.S. Navy Yard, Norfolk.



Dr. Whitney Godwin, who chaired the committee, was most instrumental in having the statue erected.

The monument was later moved to the Mahan Street location where it now stands in a row of war memorials.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Dr. F. Whitney Godwin, Chairman
Wm. Birdsong
Cloud Ely
L. P. Holland
Milton Harley

WORLD WAR MEMORIAL

Cohen, Brown and Fitzgerald, Architects
Joseph P. Palla, Sculptor
James H. Matthews & Co., Bronze work
Suffolk Marble Works, Granite work

DEDICATION COMMITTEE

Al Roden, Chairman
Marshall Andrews
Cloud E. Ely
M. E. Harley
F. E. Hindshaw
F. O. Gardner
J. M. Lovelace
O. W. Shoffield
O. S. Smith, Jr.

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Postscript - on our Borland article in our last newsletter

This information is from Memoirs of Louisiana by D. N. Barrow, published in 1892.

General Euclid Borland 1844-1896

After our last newsletter, one of our members, Thad Williams, called to ask about the Borlands. Thad, along with nearly a dozen other SNHS members, is descended from Capt. Thad Williams, C.S.A., of Nansemond County who died at Petersburg. Euclid Borland was with Capt. Thad Williams in the 6th Virginian Infantry E Company. When Capt. Thad fell in battle, Euclid Borland took over as commander and showed great bravery, Thad told us.

Thanks to the request from the modern Thad Williams and with help from Kermit Hobbs, we learned a good bit about the Euclid Borland who was with Capt. Thad Williams. The first Euclid Borland was born in 1809 in Suffolk to a Scottish father, Dr. Thomas Wood Borland, and a Nansemond County mother, Harriet Godwin Borland. The Borlands moved to Murfreesboro, N.C., and that's where Euclid's brother, Solon, about whom we wrote last, was born.

Euclid Borland I married Elizabeth Rebecca Moore of Hertford County, North Carolina, and they eventually moved to Mississippi, where their son Euclid II was born in 1844. In 1847 the family moved to Louisiana and three years later Elizabeth Borland - wife of one Euclid Borland and mother of another - died.

Euclid, age 6, was sent to live with his uncle Solon for a while, then with his great uncle, George Godwin, in Suffolk. He attended school in Suffolk and Norfolk in 1853 and 1854. After attending school in Pennsylvania for a few years, he returned to Webster's Military Academy in Portsmouth. In 1859 he went to Bloomfield Academy in Albemarle County and early in 1861 he attended a short session at Virginia Military Academy before joining the Confederate army.

Though he was not yet twenty-one years old, Euclid Borland was made Captain when Captain Thad Williams fell at Petersburg. He was in several of Lee's pitched battles and was struck six times.

After the war, he attended the University of Virginia for two years. Then he traveled in Europe, in the Middle East, and in Africa. In 1870 he returned to Louisiana.

Borland engaged in business in New Orleans and he married and had two daughters. He dabbled in state politics and was named Colonel and aide-de-camp to the governor. In 1891 he was promoted to Brigadier General of the Louisiana National Guards. (That's how he was a general.)

In his last years Euclid Borland lived in the garden district of New Orleans though he owned a sugar plantation in Louisiana, a farm in Nansemond County and property in Hertford County, North Carolina. He died in Portsmouth, Virginia in 1896 while visiting his cousin, Thomas R. Borland. He is buried in Hertford County near Murfreesboro.



Stone in the Ramsay cemetery near Murfreesboro, N.C.

The June 2007 issue of Virginia Living magazine features the Darden/Sheffield house on South Broad Street. Also, there is an article about an early Jamestown female settler with Nansemond County connections.

Celebrate Jamestown



FOR SALE AT THE TRAIN STATION:

To Have and To Hold A Tale of Providence and Perseverance in Colonial Jamestown.

Written by Virginian Mary Johnston, originally published for the Jamestown Tercentennial in 1907. This is a 400th Anniversary of Jamestown Commemorative Edition. 413 pages. Price \$24.00.

Dark Enough To See The Stars In A Jamestown Sky.

Based on the True Story of the women and children of Jamestown. By Connie Lapallo.

This story is based on the lives of real Jamestown residents: Joan Phippen Peirce, Thomas Reynolds, William Peirce, Cecily Reynolds, Sylvester Jourdain, John Thick-penny, Henry Fitzpen, Lord William Malet and others—all listed in the book. 311 pages. Price \$19.95.

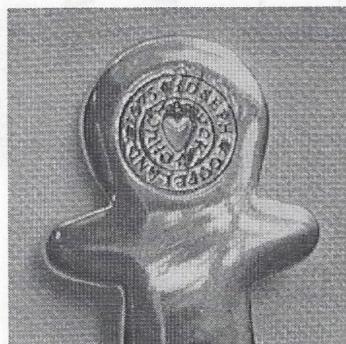
The Copeland Spoon

This beautiful spoon is an authentic reproduction of the oldest dated piece of American pewter. The original spoon was made in **Chuckatuck** in 1675 by Joseph Copeland. It was found in **Jamestown** in the 1930's bearing the stamp of the maker and the date. These handsome reproductions are made by Shirley Pewter of Williamsburg and come gift-boxed. A wonderful gift for brides, babies, Christmas or anytime.

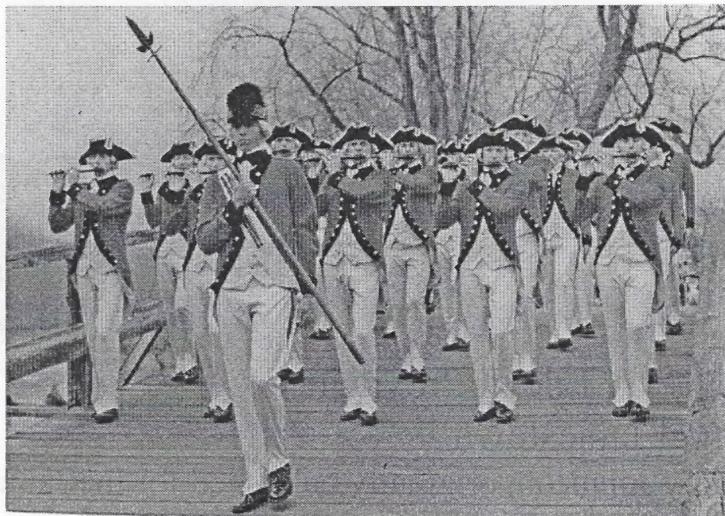


Available in 3 sizes:
4" baby or demitasse, \$24
6" teaspoon, \$23
8" serving spoon, \$38.

Detail of stamp on
6" and 8" spoons.



This group led the Bicentennial parade in Suffolk in 1976.



The SNHS office will be closed July 2-6. We will reopen July 11. Have a happy 4th of July!



TAKE A LOOK
If your name is not our membership list on page 11, this will be your last newsletter. Please join now!

**MEMORIAL TO SNHS
In Memory of
Thad Williams
by Sue Woodward**

Moving? Please inform SNHS.
Our letters to you go by bulk mail and cannot be forwarded.



SNHS is a non-profit tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization.

Name as it should appear on the roster

Address

City, State, Zip Code

Telephone Number

E-mail Address

There is history in all our lives.

This summer we hope you enjoy pleasant outdoor gatherings such as the one reported here. A number of our readers attended this party. From the Virginian-Pilot, May 1942.

**Emeline Elmore Has
Party on Birthday**

Suffolk, May 2.—In honor of her fourth birthday, Emeline Elmore, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Earle Elmore, entertained this afternoon at a lovely party in the garden of her home. A grab bag and games were enjoyed. Decorations and favors were in gold and white.

Ices, cakes, mints were served, the table having for a centerpiece a birthday cake with four candles.

The small guests included Sherry West, Sally and Susan Birdsong, Lee and Taylor Everett, Larry Shaffer, Jr., Bob and John Harrell, Anne Hudson, Jane Kauffman, Anne Phillips Harrell, Regina Holland, Joan Brothers, Mollie Darden, Martha Elmore, Jame Frawner Caulk, Mary Anne Riddick, Cleo Holladay, David and Taylor Runnels, of Staunton; Jane Coulbourn, Judy Haskell, Bert Morrison, Jimmie Caulk, Anne Rollings, Eleanor Powell, Rebecca Elmore, Frances Myrick, Jimmy Maniove, Tommy Pettit, Julia Anne Railey, George Birdsong, Arthur Raine, Nancy Polk Woolford, Sue Benton, Nancy Hooper, Jack Ellison, Sue Woodward, Linda Bowen, Billy Brantley, Dickey Pond, Gordon Herndon, Anne Morse, Frankie and Prince Butler, Mac Burton and Tommy Murphy.



Washington Square, the main business block in Suffolk, must have looked much like this in 1907. A distant blur in the middle of the street appears to be an early automobile. Horses and buggies, mules and carts, and even bicycles still outnumbered the horseless carriage. This picture seems to have been taken before the bricks were laid on the street as we can see signs of the water that was applied to unpaved streets to keep down the dust.

Thanks to our Corporate Members 2007

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SUFFOLK NEWS-HERALD

*Your Hometown Newspaper
in Suffolk*

CONTRIBUTING

Bennett's Creek Pharmacy

The Blair Bros., Inc

Butler Paper

J. Walter Hosier & Son, Inc.

A Rosy View Of Suffolk in 1907

Here is how Suffolk was described in 1907, in the Jamestown Industrial Edition of the Suffolk Herald:

"A town of over 8,000 inhabitants, situated on the Nansemond River, about 18 miles from Norfolk. Principal streets now laid with vitrified brick and bitulithic paving. Streets lighted with electricity.

"Excellent fire department. Market house open daily. Three banks (one of which is the second strongest private bank in the United States). Fine private and public schools. Churches of all denominations.

"Six steam railroads running through it, with twenty-four passenger trains daily in the out to all points. One electric road in course of construction from Portsmouth to Suffolk and soon to be completed. Daily steamboat to Norfolk.

"Lakeview Sanatorium, a hospital for medical and surgical treatment. Academy of Music, breaking the jump for the best shows between Norfolk and Richmond.

"Six peanut factories, butter-dish and fruit-package factories, printing offices, lumber mills, grist mills, oysters, coach shop, electric light plant, gas works, ice factories, car repair shops, machine shops, iron foundry, knitting mills, steam and hand laundries and numerous wholesale and retail business houses supplying the local and out-of-town trade."

Where is the 1958 time capsule? In front of the Pretlow law office at the corner of Main and Bank Streets. This building was the post office originally.

SNHS Board

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Ex officio:

Steve Jackson

DAWSON HOUSE NEWS



Phone 757-539-2781 • Email: SNHS@exis.net

• We welcome our new SNHS administrative assistant, Julie Johnson. Her hours will be 8:30-4:30, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

• Roof work is about to begin on the Dawson House!

Dawson House Capital Campaign Gifts and Pledges June 2006 - May 2007

\$10,000 and up

Joe & Lynn Barlow
Birdsong Corporation
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas J. O'Connor, III

\$5,000-\$9,999

Farmers Bank
Duke Automotive
Whitney and Ellen Saunders
Sue Woodward

\$1,000 - \$4,999

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Lynnette Holmes Park
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In Honor of Dick & Beth Trimble By
Patricia S. Howell
Mr. & Mrs. William C. Wyatt, III

TRAIN STATION NEWS



Phone 757-923-4750
Email: trainstation@exis.net

Train Station News

• Thanks to all the SNHS members who brought interesting items from the Jamestown Exposition and other celebrations for our **Celebrating History** exhibit on display through July 4, 2007, at the Station. Stop by and see what our members have brought.

• **Storytime at the Station:** Come for more adventures of Whiskers Q. Mouse as told by Karen Grogan. Stories, crafts and fun. June 18, 19, 25 from 10-11:30; June 26 from 10-12:00. \$5.00 per child per day. Suggested age – 3 and up. Space is limited. Reservations will be accepted with advance payment. For information call 923-4750.

• Thanks to Steve Waddell, Ed Grogan and Sid Thomas for repair work they've done at the Station.

VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS NEEDED!!

SNHS Membership - 2007 - As of May 21, 2007

If your name does not appear below, this will be your last newsletter. Please renew!

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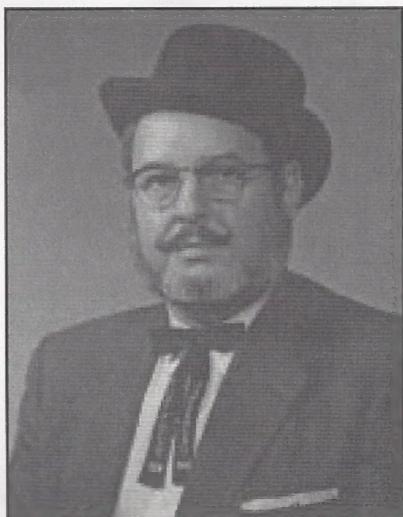


Kirk Lumber Company's truck fleet is shown c. 1926 down the hill from the Kirk home at Everets. Western Branch Reservoir now covers this lower lot. Photo and information thanks to Lynn Kirk Rose. We are sad to note the closing of Kirk Lumber Co. which has operated in Everets almost continuously since 1871.

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Dr. J. M. Habel joined the Brothers of the Brush in the 1958 Suffolk Festival.